

TOC H JOURNAL

Vol. III.

JUNE, 1925

No. 6

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Communications for insertion next month must reach the Editor not later than the last Thursday of this month (June 25).

A NEW PILGRIMS' PROGRESS—V.

Crossing to Victoria, Vancouver Island,

5/5/25.

IF "poetry is passion recollected in tranquillity," this spasm of stuff for the June JOURNAL might well begin with a transport on transportation. For I am writing once more on shipboard. Since February the fatal bar to correspondence has been that there is no known way of writing on the tremendous train journeys, so that my literary debts are dreadful. Now the Pacific is ahead of us at last, and the postal service of New Zealand will be distended at Auckland on May 25. But for the first few days we shall rest. I 'faith, we both need it, as never before.

It is 1 a.m. and I am alone, and indifferently habited, in a cabin on the eighty-mile ferry boat from Vancouver to Victoria on Vancouver Island. Pat I have left behind me on the mainland in a vast hotel, to spend the night in packing and last letter writing*. He comes on the *Niagara* to-morrow, and persuades the skipper (I hope) to stop and pick me up. We have travelled hitherto like John Gilpin and his spouse, and caught glimpses only of one another in motion across Canada. The passenger agents, those fairy godfathers provided by the C.P.R. have united us in this city or that, or at least raised our hopes of ultimate reunion, at the end of four thousand miles of train travelling apiece. But we have been time and again as far apart as London and Vienna, and have only actually shared the journey across the Rockies. Now we are once more to divide a cabin and refit ourselves spiritually for the tremendous task ahead.

How great that task is, we are only now beginning to apprehend, and I cannot now compute it in cold print. To meet everywhere old friends and new, to stagger through the public luncheons and lectures, to measure the misunderstandings and to dethrone and disentangle them one by one, to winnow out the call of God from among the endless courtesies of a polite people, to pick your pivotal men, discarding the busybody and digging down through a crowd to the greathearts, to leave the next step shown, and the whole road in reasonable perspective, not seen indeed, but in a sense surveyed as leading upward—is vastly different from the phrases which are commonly exchanged concerning the

* One of the letters Pat wrote at this moment follows on p. 159

chief speaker, captivated the large audience for an hour. Guy Ewing spoke of the services of Toc H in boys' work, and Councillor Saunders made an appeal for a "home" for the branch. As a result of these public events many new recruits have been enrolled. We have decided to run a flag-day in the summer for St. Dunstan's, and we are discussing all manner of problems, local, social and national, at our fortnightly meetings. Week-end camp conferences and garden meetings are being arranged, and the musical talent of the branch and L.W.H. is being organised into a concert party. On April 24 our offspring, the *Cromborough Beacon Group*, came into the world at a meeting held at "The Highlands," Crowborough, the house of Scoutmaster W. Smalley. Twelve men handed in their applications for membership, and a little more than their subscriptions, and it was arranged to hold a public meeting at the scout headquarters on May 15.

NOBBY.

WORTHING.—In conjunction with the Brighton Branch and the Shoreham and Lancing Group, a very successful meeting was held in Shoreham Town Hall on the 28th. The Shoreham members turned up in force, and a strong Brighton contingent brought their Lamp over with them. The proceedings were of a "free and easy" character, but in the course of the evening Oakley, of Shoreham, stated, amid cheers, that in two months the numbers of the group had risen to 32.

G. S. K.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN HELPERS

BRIGHTON.—We meet now once a month. Some of us are doing certain work at an old-established boys' club, others are helping to get another one out of debt. We gratefully accepted an invitation from the Brighton Education Committee to their conference last month on Juvenile Employment and Children's After-Care work, and at our last meeting Mr. Prior, secretary of the Juvenile Welfare Association, gave us a most interesting talk about play centres. On Sunday, March 15, we had tea with members of Toc H, after which Mr. Tyrer read a most helpful paper on "What Toc H is out for." We hope to have more of these meetings. Three of our members embroidered a beautiful banner for the branch in time for the Birthday Festival, and we have since made rover scarves and hemmed sheets for a boys' hostel just taken over by Toc H. On April 25 we are co-operating with Toc H in running a whist drive by means of which we hope to show our gratitude to "Gen" and Mrs. Gen for all they have been, and still are, to Toc H.

D. F.

CHELTHENHAM.—Since our last entry in the JOURNAL we have had Mr. J. Nicholson, Padre Hodson, Miss Miles (headmistress of the Girls' Grammar School), Dr. Wilkins (on "Food Reform"), and Miss D. Clarke (secretary of the County organisation for the blind) as speakers. The work here continues to be active at St. Martin's and the canteen of the Toc H Boys' Club, and in visiting crippled children and the blind, also with games at the Institute for the Blind. We are discussing, at our next meeting, a proposed "Ramblers' Club" for girls—with walks, picnics, &c., to be followed up next winter with a social club, so that friendships made may be continued. This, we think, would be a useful start towards the After-Care of girls. We are also looking forward to a combined meeting with Toc H on April 29, when Col. Grant is to be the speaker.

E. F. U.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS.—The group of L.W.H. here has now been definitely formed, and is going strong indeed. Meetings are held once or twice a month in addition to such social functions as whist drives and dances organised for various charities. The L.W.H. has also taken in hand the refreshments at the men's big Meetings at the end of March, and on April 20 invited the Toc H Branch to supper at their favourite restaurant. Lastly, L.W.H. is not only taking the leading hand over a tennis club, but has decided to open a banking account to help Toc H.

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externalities of travel. During the blissful silences of these next three weeks, broken only by the sound of the surf on those lonely, lovely islands of the mid-Pacific, I shall try to prepare some paper on the retrospect of these three months in North America. At present my memory is a kaleidoscope full of fragments that have not ceased to fall, and I understand, in the impotence of words, that Dean Donne was not merely satirical, when he bequeathed "my silence to any that abroad have been."

Here are three such glimpses.

I.—AT SASKATOON ON A SUNDAY MORNING.

I have celebrated at Christchurch, and breakfasted with the trusty and well-beloved Askeys afterwards. I am free till 11 a.m., and start on a somewhat despondent walk in the sunshine of a dancing spring morning. I leave the last houses, as I think, of Saskatoon behind me, and pursue a skyline broken with a few clumps of cultivated trees. I have the world to myself, apparently, and begin to whistle or what not. Suddenly my name is called behind me. I find a man in younger middle age running, and out of the past familiar. His name? Yes, it is! Pat Drew! Whom I missed in 1922, and had not seen since 1917. His home is yonder, and I go with him. Mrs. Drew is on the doorstep, and a small son, whose second name is *Clayton*.

II.—A TRAIN TO QUEBEC, SHORTLY BEFORE EASTER.

I had torn myself from the Philadelphia Conference, travelled all night to Buffalo, talked in the Cathedral, and to a big bunch of brother clergy afterwards. One of them—the Rector of Niagara—had driven me thirty miles to see the Falls, and after colloquy on the frontier, had landed me on the train on the Canadian side. All night to Montreal, with a break at Toronto (when a telephone call from the station brought a dozen fellows from Toc H to spend the half-hour of waiting). Then, on the Quebec train, a darkie car-man notes my button-hole Lamp, and tells me that there are two others on the same train. I walk forward, and find Pat and Pryor Grant, and we journey on together to share that unforgettable Easter, which lifted from us so much that seemed impenetrably difficult in finding ways and means. I must not yet record this last more clearly.

III.—TWO NIGHTS ON THE PRAIRIES.

A local train steaming slowly on a single line, apparently the only thing not level in the landscape. An ocean of bare land, delivered now from snow, with surface pools or "sleughs" at uncertain intervals, and groups of stark, squat houses bunched together behind a stopping place each twenty miles or so, each with a more resounding name—Rosedale, Zealandia! The moon out now, and the lights in the train darkened that those sitting there may forget the grinding and the jolting and fall asleep. Far on into the night thus; and then, much laden, I descend at Alsask, and am met by a group of new friends of Toc H, seen only by the light of an oil lamp in the wooden waiting-room. They hump my heavy bag along a duckboard track, which forms the pavement to the sea of ruts which are the high street. Alsask is nearly all pure English, my good host hails from Brighton. It (Alsask, not Brighton) boasts one train a day, and this at

midnight! Loverna, to which we drive next morning along a track in which you stick if you stop, and break your springs if you don't, is also on the railway. But the train goes no further than Loverna yet, and only on alternate days is even due to reach there.

Each township has its own newspaper, and before I left I added to my commitments the post of world correspondent to them both. But this is by the way.

At Loverna, when we got there minus one spring, we reported to the Rector, Rev. Dave Hasell, who, with the assistance of two ordinands (one Cooper, once of Mark I) and a caravan Ford only less incredible than "the light car," ministers in an area equivalent to Surrey, Sussex, and Kent, baked brown or buried in snow, and does it with unfailing punctuality (whatever those words mean) and enjoys it, too, as much as it enjoys him.

It was a great meeting that night, with a crowd of folk larger than had ever before assembled in Loverna. And afterwards we drove desperately back to Alsask, to catch the midnight train.

This must really stop here, for Pat's boat (and mine!) will be in by now, and I want to show him the island (which is at least the size of England) before she sails again at 8 p.m. To-morrow we shall be far out of sight of Canada, and staring (like stout Cortes) at the Pacific. I'm so glad Cortes was stout. Next month I begin with the story of Chilliwack, B.C.

TUBBY.

* * * * *

Here follows a brief summing-up of Canada as seen by the other Pilgrim—his first (but, we all hope, not his last) letter to the JOURNAL.

Vancouver, B.C.

May 5, 1925, A.D.

Three months ago to-day we slid out of Southampton Harbourn with certain songs and benisons ringing in our ears. To-morrow we step off Canada on our westward course and turn the page on Chapter I of our Pilgrimage. "To-morrow" did I say? I mean "to-day" for it is long past midnight. The lights of Vancouver are but a memory, and the dawn will soon be here. Tubby has gone on to Victoria by the night boat, after playing the midwife in his usual masterly way—and I am left behind to pay the bills and shepherd the luggage on board the *Niagara*, which picks Tubby off Vancouver Island before she finally sets her nose towards the island continent.

We have been making history to-night, and the next JOURNAL will have two more names to add to the list of groups. The birth pangs of Master Vancouver Toc H began three years ago, but it was only to-night, when Nurse Tubby had arrived on the scenes with his little bulging brown attache cases, that the birth was achieved, and after all it turns out to be twins, for ten stout men from Chilliwack drove in to the meeting, and have now returned the 80 odd miles to their mountain-ringed farms, on fire for the Brotherhood of Service that has its roots in the service of God.

Canada has been a wonderful experience. However long my death may be delayed, I'll never forget the friendliness and sympathy of certain folk in the big

house at Ottawa, or the little group at Toronto—almost pathetic in its fidelity—or the welcome at Winnipeg, with its fine house and finer friendship. I may forget the vast, endless miles of prairie, and the rugged grandeur of the Rockies and I may forget Vancouver's Harbour like an English lake chalcid with snow-capped hills, but I'm blown if I'll ever forget the look in the eye of an old son of the "Upper Room" who journeyed by road and river and rail 150 miles for a momentary grasp of Tubby's hand as the train carried us through the Rockies. Nor will I forget his "God speed" as he turned to journey back those long rough miles to his wooden home. It is early days yet to estimate results. We haven't built all the castles, whose plans we saw in the air, our conquest of North America hasn't been as overwhelming as it should have been, seeing how many hands have been held up for us, but our embassy hasn't been altogether in vain and I hope that history may prove that the results of all your praying are like icebergs, so deep that the best of them are invisible.

Tubby, hardened sailor that he is, affects a complete indifference, but I'm hoping that the Pacific will not belie its name, and that the next three weeks will get us fit and in condition for our spring offensive in New Zealand and Australia. We are both continually conscious of being upheld. Without such support this would be a task incredible.

My love to all the Family,

PAT.

* * * * *

Extrait from a letter dated 1-5-25 to Grantibus from his brother, the Rev. A. V. GRANT, of Ste. Agathe des Monts, Province of Quebec. It describes his meeting with the Pilgrims at MONTREAL and is accompanied by this sketch:—"I only caught a very fleeting glimpse of the travellers. Spent one evening with them both, and on the following morning trotted Pat round to the Scout headquarters and had to leave him there and catch my train. The group had arranged a dinner for them at one of the hotels, and as I was early on the scene various people mistook me for either T. or P., since I was wearing a clerical collar. I couldn't disabuse a youth from McGill, who declared that he recognised me! the moment he saw me from a newspaper photo he'd seen. Fortunately at that moment somebody brought Pat up to introduce me to him, and further explanation was unnecessary. About twelve members forgathered. I secured a place near Tubby, but an extra table was found to be necessary, so that I was too far off to converse during the meal. He appeared very tired and, as far as I could gather anything, was conversing chiefly with himself about American ice-creams. He appeared to mistake his water ice for a salad-dressing, and having found out his mistake, continued



eating the weird concoction with the very appearance of drowsy enjoyment; he reminded me strongly of the dormouse at the tea-party. After dinner we adjourned to the rooms of one of the men and spent the next two hours in conversation. By the way, have you given up using chairs in England? Our guests both chose the floor. Tubby, in his shirt sleeves, propped his semi-recumbent form against a doorpost, while Pat lay flat on his stomach and apparently went to sleep. It was agreed that Tubby should hold forth on any subject he cared to choose—except Toc H, and then Pat should bathe us in statistics. . . . Pat never got his innings, as by the time we had finished listening to T. and discussed questions arising out of his remarks, it was late, and most of the men had to trot off.

"There is a Belgian girl taking treatment up here for T.B., who lived in Pop all through the War; she was very interested in Toc H, and read Tubby's book."

* * * * *

Extract from a letter to Miss Macfie from Mrs. NELSON LUKENS, Haverford, Pennsylvania. Easter Monday, 1925 :—

"Toc H exists in Philadelphia. Its roots are very small and weak, and it is feeling its way towards light, but nevertheless it exists. I think you'll be interested to hear of its inception even at the risk of having to read a long letter. We have had two splendid visits from Tubby Clayton and Pat Leonard, both of whom made a very deep impression. The visits were six weeks apart, and over two nights each time. The first time they both preached at churches on Sunday morning with very indifferent effect: after all, that isn't an ideal way to present Toc H. Then, in the evenings, we had informal gatherings at my brother's home of about forty of our friends, and the two apostles explained the whole *ensemble* of Toc H to them—origin, ideals, details, &c. The first evening they talked for *three* hours before anyone thought of time, and I have never seen a crowd of keen people so utterly absorbed. People asked a great many questions, but all towards attempting to grasp the essential spirit of the thing. Then Tubby and Mr. Leonard went away for six weeks to New York, Providence, Boston and Toronto, only returning here last week. Meanwhile people here mulled over the matter, digested it, formed objections and questions. It was all very interesting because for obvious reasons it has to be worked out quite differently in this country. Then last week these questions and objections were raised and answered and we got much more down to practical details which had to be talked out while Tubby and Mr. Leonard were here. The final result has been that about twenty people have the matter so earnestly at heart that they want to go on with it. Of course, we have to feel our way slowly, but if the spirit is there the means are sure to follow. At Tubby's suggestion we are going to meet fortnightly now for a bit, just to talk until our ideas get boiled down and assorted. But, at any rate, Toc H does exist here, and has taken an almost unbelievable hold—which all shows that people are thirsting for some living thing which they aren't getting from the churches."

* * * * *

A letter to Mrs. Cawley from a Winnipeg lady, April 21, 1925 :—"Will you count on my help for Toc H in any way I can. I have been much touched by all these two men have told us. I did not realise before the full significance of the movement. Anything that can break down the artificialities of life and reach the reality is surely the thing worth helping." I don't know who the Toc Emmas are here, but if they need me I will join. I have not much spare time or money, or rather the money is mostly spare, but all I want to care about is being 'one of the little who help to push.'"

* * * * *

A letter to Tubby from S. WILLIAMS, of Abcola, Sask. :—"Perhaps by this time you have forgotten the two Canadian tunnellers who, in the spring of 1916, used to drop in to Talbot

House, Poperinghe, for an early Celebration in between trips to Hill 60. I'm one of them. When I read in the English papers of your proposed visit to Canada, I thought I might possibly get to hear or see you, either at Winnipeg or Regina. This, however, is out of the question, so I am taking the liberty of writing to wish you every blessing on this tour, and incidentally to say 'Thank you' for the many kindnesses shown so many years ago."

* * * * *

Extract from a letter to Tubby from a patient in hospital who had listened to him on the wireless. Hallum Lake, R.I., March 19, 1925 :—" Perhaps you will wonder who is writing this letter. The truth is I am a patient at the State Sanatorium for Tubercular trouble, and have listened in with great interest to the sermons which you and Mr. Leonard have been giving, and am going to ask if while you are on your travels you will kindly offer up some prayers for me and those of my fellow patients who are worthy. We are experiencing a very hard part of life. . . . I have copied your Toc H prayer the best I could, and trust it is right. I would also like to say that there are others beside myself who are interested in your work. If you can find it convenient to pray for us will you please ask that we be enabled to live above the many disagreeable features of institution life, and never fail to see the good and hold our faith secure. If this letter seems presumptuous, I hope you will pardon one who so often feels a sense of isolation owing to the condition of her health. Wishing you all peace and joy, and a hearty reception and co-operation in your journey in this noble cause."

IN MEMORIAM: ISOBEL STUART CLAYTON.

TO many London members Tubby's sister was a familiar figure, at first among the boys of her wonderful club at Hoxton and then in the work of All Hallows. We cannot do better than quote the tribute which appeared in the *Times* of May 20 to her faithful service and unselfish character :—" For one who lived quite unknown to fame and entirely regardless of it, the news of the death, which took place in London in the early morning of May 19, of Miss Isobel Clayton will bring sorrow to extraordinarily large numbers of people. Miss Clayton, who was the elder sister of the Rev. P. B. Clayton, the founder of Toc H and vicar of All Hallows', Barking, must have been known either personally or by name to great numbers connected with Toc H, and others in London of a poorer status among whom she had vigorously and devotedly worked. Indeed, overwork for a long time may be said to have been the cause of her illness, which began nearly a year ago, and has now proved fatal. In the development and organisation of Toc H she took the greatest interest, and when her brother had been appointed to All Hallows she joined forces with him, for she had been previously working in Hoxton in connection with St. Columba's Church, Kingsland Road, where she occupied quarters next door. Here she made fast friends with many humble neighbours, who more than once proved their practical devotion to her afterwards. For about a year she lived in the Toc H New June flat facing the Tower, where she delighted, as always, in overtaxing her energies as a daily hostess and cateress to as many as would come. Earlier in life she had lived and worked at Acton among a population of laundry hands, and at one time she pursued her self-appointed mission—for she invented her own methods of helping others—in the neighbourhood of Red Lion Square. She served several loyalties with a complete simplicity of mind and manner, and unflagging good temper—to her uncle, the late Canon H. E. Clayton, of Oxford, with whom she was much in his latter years ; to her ' mothers ' at Hoxton and elsewhere ; and latterly, until her severe and complicated illness developed, to the City church of Toc H." The funeral took place on Ascension Day. The great family gathering of Toc H at All Hallows in the early morning remembered her, and a memorial service was held there that evening.—R.I.P.

REAL J.A.M.

IT must have been the autumn of 1916, at Poperinghe, when I first gave my best Labour Battalion salute to Colonel J. A. Methuen, D.S.O. It was thuswise. I dropped in to visit a new mob of I.B. signals, who were at work in the quondam scullery of an erstwhile mansion in the Rue de Pots. After the usual interchange of insults, reference was made to the Colonel; he was acting B.G., I think, at the time. Spoken of, he suddenly appeared, a presence incredibly peremptory and paternal. He sized up and sorted out the situation in ten seconds.

I the time over a was sparring for these strangers, somehow, and two in a soldier's gift of conbrought those men night. There est trace of undue just take-it-or-from someone they before him. For I saw him and Never since; but matters. At rare ten to me, genaddress, and more replied. Hewrote letter about Mr. ual healing visit when he provided 5,000 native sick other whites I fear,

noses at such an assemblage. Lately there comes a letter, some cuttings, and two photographs, from one of which the sketch here shown is made. It is in Rhodesia, the only memorial to natives who made the great sacrifice, and J.A.M. and his brother brought it into being. The cross stands thirty feet high, and weighs fifty tons. Its site is on the Portuguese border, and the precipitous summit of the Kopje can be reached by only one difficult approach, up which the natives carried the whole of the material and the water. A labour of love, indeed. After the unveiling, two minutes of complete silence were kept, not a sound coming from that vast native assembly. Truly, a triumph of the Cross, unthinkable in Rhodesia within the dynasties of chiefs before Zymunia, who laid a wreath of wild flowers at its foot.



was in travail at confirmation, and an opening with He sensed this added a word or tongue about the firmation which to the class that wasn't the slight-influence, it was leave-it testimony trusted, as no man the next fortnight them almost daily. how little that intervals he's writterally to the wrong rarely still, I've a marvellous long Hickson's spirit-to Umtali in 1923, ground for the to camp on, and looked down their

P. B. C.

JOBMASTERY : VII. PRISON VISITING

We are much indebted for the article which follows to SIR EVELYN RUGGLES-BRISE, who was, from 1895-1921, Chairman of H.M. Prison Commission, and has been President of the International Prison Commission. He is now a Vice-President of the Borstal Association, and one of the foremost authorities in the country on prison work. The several kinds of service which he indicates as open to Toc H are already being undertaken by members of some branches, and there is a large scope for further work of the kind all over the country. Helping to bring the man in gaol "back into the family" is a fine outlet for the Toc H spirit.

WHEN the Government in 1877 assumed the control of Local Prisons (*i.e.*, County and Borough Gaols), the public conscience was not greatly concerned with the lot of the petty criminal, the offender in small things, whose charges fell within the category known as summary, or non-indictable, offences, and who was punished by imprisonment, with or without hard labour, being sentenced to a term which could not exceed two years, and which was, as a rule, for a few months or weeks, or even days, in default of payment of a fine.

It was thought at this time that the problem of imprisonment had been solved by the "glorious" discovery or invention of the cellular plan, *i.e.*, by the strict isolation of the prisoner by day and night, the moral value of which was held to consist in the opportunity offered for reflection and meditation, and the purging of the soul by avoiding all contact with the outer world, and even with fellow-prisoners. This was known as the "Penitentiary System," and by its means prison was deemed to effect its reforming agency. It was an easy and economical method from an administrative point of view, and it is probably due to this cause that the cellular plan owed its success, and was generally adopted both here and in many foreign countries, not only as the method of punishment "par excellence," but as sufficiently fulfilling the admitted purpose of all punishment to reform as well as to deter.

At this time, the population of Local Prisons represented over 600 per 100,000 of the population of the country, among them a large proportion of children under 12, and young persons under 16, and many thousands of what we now call the Borstal age, 16-21.

For many years following the Prison Act of 1877, there was a tacit acceptance of the belief that the State had fulfilled its whole duty towards the prisoner by the adoption of the cellular plan—with its law of silence, with its mechanical labour on treadwheels and cranks, with its dietary "sufficient, but not more than sufficient." But some 20 years later, the public conscience became uneasy, and the movement of what is now familiar to us under the name of "Prison Reform" began to take place in a protest against the excessive centralisation which resulted from the Act of 1877, and the application of an unduly severe discipline by what was termed the "autocrats of Whitehall," who had borrowed their rules and regulations from the old Australian convict system, and applied them with an iron precision, not only to the convicts in penal servitude, but to the petty offender, man, woman, and young person, in Local Prisons. The protest

was directed chiefly against the "inhumanity" of the cellular or isolated system, and against the exclusion of all reforming agencies inside and outside the prison.

As this protest became louder and more insistent, the Government of the day—1893—ordered an inquiry into the administration, and the result of this inquiry may be regarded as the dawn of a new day in the history and government of prisons. It was found that "Centralisation had been carried too far; that prisoners had been treated too much as a hopeless, or worthless, element of the community; and that the moral, as well as the legal responsibility of the authorities had been held to cease when the prisoner passed outside the prison gates." These words may be said to mark the passage from the old to the new theory of punishment—from that which rested on severity of repression to that which looks forward hopefully towards the possible rehabilitation of offenders against the law. It is with this latter purpose that Toc H is specially concerned, *i.e.*, the possible rehabilitation of offenders.

The present century has witnessed a wonderful decrease of crime, as measured by prison statistics, *i.e.*, by the number of persons committed to prison. During the last ten years, the total convictions for all crimes, gross and petty, has fallen from 369 to 124 per 100,000 of the population. Under the operation of the Criminal Justice Administration Act, 1914, allowing time for payment of fines the number committed for short terms has fallen from between 75 and 100,000 to 15,000 per annum almost by a stroke of the pen. Before the passing of this most beneficent Act, about 100,000 persons went to prison annually for two weeks or less. Last year, there were only 15,000. But apart from legislative changes, there has been another great factor making for the reduction of the prison population in recent years, and that is, the development of social service in prisons—the personal service of many earnest and devoted men and women, who, working hand in hand with the prison officials in many directions for the moral betterment of inmates, male and female of all ages, give a living value and expression to the old biblical ideal of human pity and compassion, "I was in prison, and you visited me."

To-day, a great multitude of prison Visitors are seeing things for themselves. They realise that punishment cannot by itself reform, however cleverly devised your prison system may be; they realise also that somewhere in the profundities of the heart of some "*dechet humain*," where persistence in a life of crime has wellnigh excluded all hope of reform, there may yet remain one small flickering spark, which by gentle soothing and influence may kindle again into a new life.

I have been asked in what way Toc H, which carries high the torch of humanity in many places, can introduce its light into the gloom and darkness of prison cells, and become one of the instruments for the reinstatement of the many types and classes of social failures, who, experience shows, can be redeemed by great effort and patience by Christian workers. These workers proceed on the plan of placing themselves in close touch and co-operation with the official authority in prisons, *i.e.*, the Prison Commissioners in Whitehall, and through them, with their officers and servants throughout the country.

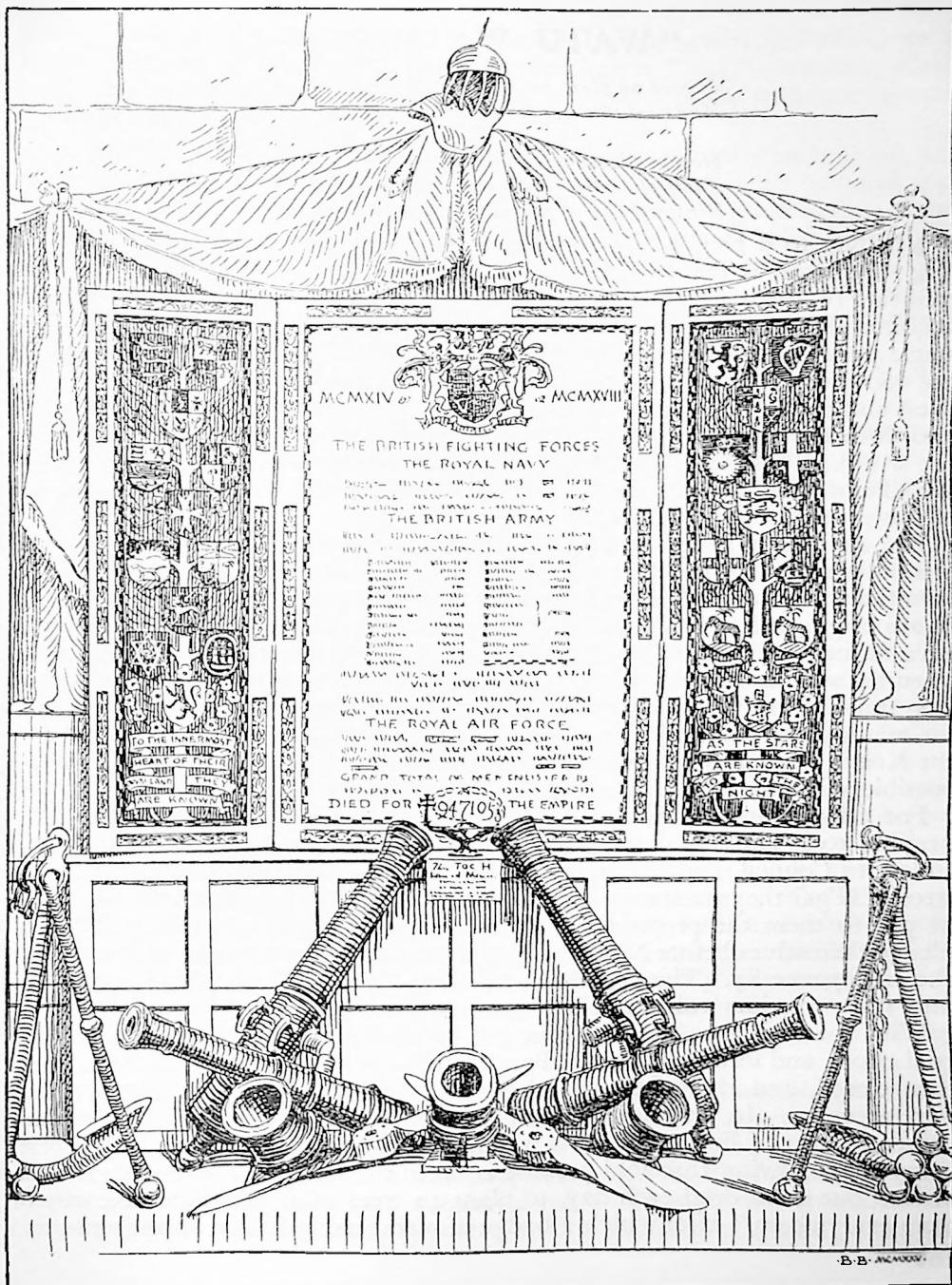
There are already some 450 men and women at this moment working regularly as Prison Visitors. Their visitation is not sentimental, but practical. They have a distinct function assigned to them, and a definite place in the administration. *Firstly*, ordinary visitation, whereby comfort and advice is tendered to those in need of it—and they are many. At first sight, a Visitor may be discouraged by the apparent hopelessness of his task, by the drab and grey uniformity of spoilt lives, of chances thrown away or abused, of (in many cases) cunning and duplicity and pretentiousness, against which the visitor must always be on his guard. He must be on his guard also not to be discouraged at the beginning. He must learn by experience that useful seed may be sown in the heart of some who at first repel all advances, are disdainful of good advice, but who slowly, but surely, are impressed with the character and goodness of those who are giving so much time and trouble to the difficult task of bringing back these erring and perhaps burdened souls to the perception of truth, and light, and justice.

Secondly, apart from visitation by itself, there is now operating in prisons an important Committee, known as the Adult Education Committee. From them and from many others through their influence, the Prison Commissioners are now receiving many offers of voluntary help in teaching. The level of education in simple things is extremely low among those coming to prison. Great efforts are now being made to find a remedy for that vacancy and listlessness of mind which has always characterised detention in cellular prisons, when the prescribed hours of labour are completed. There are now classes in languages, economics, shorthand, Shakespeare, astronomy, and many other subjects. The Governors are greatly in need of outside voluntary assistance in organising these classes, especially in the evening; and offers made by experienced teachers are always welcome; and, *thirdly*, the Prison Visitor may become, and nearly always is, a member of the executive committee of the Prisoners' Aid Society. This offers a wide opportunity of Christian effort in its most practical and benevolent form.

In these three ways then, as Visitor, Teacher, and Member of Aid Society, it is open to members of Toc H to come to the assistance of the prison administration; and anyone who can help is invited by the Commissioners to write to the Governor of the prison nearest to his or her home, or he can write directly to the Commissioners at Whitehall; or to their Secretary, Mr. A. J. Wall, C.B.E., Prison Commission, Home Office, S.W.

E. RUGGLES-BRISE.

THE LAMP AT WEMBLEY.—The drawing on the opposite page shows the beautiful Empire Roll in the Court of Honour of the Government Pavilion at the British Empire Exhibition. Our silver Lamp stands before the grand total (947,105) of the Elder Brethren who died in the War, and the following inscription is on the gold card below it: *This Toc H Lamp of Maintenance was lighted by Her Majesty the Queen at 3 o'clock on Thursday the 14th of May, 1925. It will be kept burning during the whole period of the Exhibition.* The centre panel of the Roll shows, in gold lettering, the strength of the Navy, Army and Air Force in August, 1914, and the total war-enlistments and deaths from 1914 to 1918. The side panels, illuminated in gold and colours on a background of green leaves, show the tree of the Empire hung with shields of arms and with roses springing at its foot, with the legend (part of another verse from Lawrence Binyon's *For the Fallen*, from which "They grow not old . . ." is taken) "To the innermost heart of their own land they are known, as the stars are known to the night." The Roll is the work of Jessie Bayes. The Court of Honour represents not merely the service of armed forces; one wall is devoted to the lifeboat men, another to firemen and police, and the well-known picture of Capt. Oates going out to his death in the polar blizzard hangs in one corner. *It is suggested that Toc H members visiting the Exhibition should forgather at the Lamp at 12 noon or 4 p.m. or 6 p.m., in the hope of meeting other members.*



“WATU WA MITI.”

*If good we plant not, vice will fill its place,
And rankest weeds the fairest soil deface.*

* * * *

*He who plants a tree plants love—
Tents of coolness spreading out above
Wayfarers he may not live to see.*

RISING to a height of over 19,000 feet, and only a few miles from the Equator, is the imposing peak of Mount Kenya, from which our Protectorate of British East Africa took its new name of Kenya Colony when it acquired the full status of a Crown Colony. The mountain itself towers up in a single peak not unlike the Matterhorn in appearance, and, where the slopes are not too sheer, covered with perpetual snow. Extending for many miles North, West and South, however, are long foothills, ranging from 10,000 to 12,000 feet, and clothed with what are probably the finest and most extensive cedar forests in the world. These foothills carry a very large native population, chiefly of the Wakikuyu tribe, and their presence there is a very real danger to the existence of this potent wealth of timber.

The African native is essentially childlike, but in addition to having the attributes common to childhood of destructiveness and improvidence, he is also essentially lazy and lacking in initiative. These primitive agriculturalists, of Bantu origin, are fully alive to the richness of forest virgin soil, and for years have farmed their crops by destroying the trees by matchet or fire and then, when the soil has become exhausted, moving further into the forest area. For a long time the problem of educating the native to less wasteful methods exercised the minds of our forest officers without success, until one, R. St. Barbe Baker, of the Kenya Forestry department, hit on the ideal of the Boy Scout system as a possible solution of the difficulty.

For a long time the natives had been in the habit, in times of drought, of praying to N'gai (the Great Spirit). Mr. Baker summoned the Chiefs and Elders to Council, and having expounded to them that if they cut down the trees of N'gai they must expect increasing drought, as these trees brought rain, he put to them the proposal that they should call for volunteers who would pledge themselves before N'gai each to plant 10 trees every year, and to protect the trees generally. The appeal immediately captured the native imagination, and 3,000 warriors volunteered.

With the assistance of the Chiefs, Mr. Baker selected 50 picked men for the trial effort, and initiated them as Forest Guides or Scoutmasters, the ranks were then closed, and thereafter only those especially recommended by the Chiefs were accepted. In time an initiation ceremony was evolved, which takes place before a Court of Forest Scouts to which no stranger is admitted. At this ceremony the following threefold promise is taken: "I promise before N'gai to do at least one good deed each day, to plant 10 trees each year, and take care of trees everywhere," after which a badge of membership is tied on the wrist, and

it is explained to the initiated that the Guides' colours, green and white, are to remind members to plant trees and keep their hearts "*safi*"—meaning clean. A sign and password is then communicated; the latter freely translated means, "We are one."

At first the idea of doing one good deed a day was not fully understood, and often at the end of the day scouts would come to their Chief's hut and say: "We have come to you to ask you to help us to think of a good deed. In two hours the Sun will go down, and so far we have been unable to think of anything to do. Can you help us?" Since those early days reports have come in from all sides which show that they have grown to understand, and often daring deeds to save both life and property have been accomplished in their determination to fulfil their obligations.

These Forest Scouts are known as the *Watu wa Miti*, or "Men of the Trees." The organisation in the tribe is known as "The Forest." "The Forest" is divided into districts each named after the tree predominant in that district, and these districts into scout troops known as Branches, and ruled over by the Forest Guides. Thus the organisation consists of the Forest, the Trees, and the Branches.

It is reported that this movement is making tremendous headway, and its influence on the native both in his individual or village life, and his relationship with other tribes or sections is already marked. Here, in fact, is being developed among an uneducated, unsophisticated and almost primeval people the Toc H principles of brotherhood to man, and sonship to God, through service. The native in Central Africa is largely unspoilt; his contact with civilisation is not yet sufficiently close (except on the white plantations, or in the widely-scattered townships) for him to have acquired the white man's vices, or to have received that little but dangerous amount of knowledge which results in the first use of the capacity of writing English being the forging of his master's name to obtain a bottle of whisky. His crimes are mainly the petty crimes of childhood, his joy in simple things that of the child, his fondness for company that of the schoolboy. Life for the men is largely a game of make-believe; the heat and burden of day falls on the womenfolk, who hew the wood and draw the water. The Boy Scout idea was to take the natural instinct of the boy to form a band and select a leader for mischievous purposes, and to use that instinct by putting it into channels for good. And now the native is beginning to combine, mainly for amusement, but dangerously near to things more serious, and purposes more evil. Shortly before I left Africa, big bands had been formed for the purposes of holding N'gomas or dances.

These bands numbered many hundreds of semi-educated natives (they were led as a rule, by house boys, *i.e.* servants to Europeans) and were called the *Wa Kingi* (King's People), or *Wa Scotchi* or *Waranota* (the usurpers). The dances were most elaborate and effective, very often in the form of dramatic displays, sham fights, &c., with wonderful imitation uniforms; harmless and amusing (except when your boy appeared at an N'goma in your best dinner suit

temporarily appropriated) but the idea began to spread in less innocent directions. I received information which was unquestionably based on fact that these bands not only formed sort of friendly societies, a passport for members travelling through the country, but in some cases had their own courts, and secretly tried and imprisoned people. The Men of the Trees, however, show how these things can be wrought into good, and an immense field for development on right lines in the education of the native, in his management of his own communal affairs, and in his own moral training, would seem to open up.

Mr. Baker reports that so great is the interest in the scheme that it is being adopted in other countries, and an organisation is being formed to apply the methods so far as re-forestation is concerned, to European countries also. To us, in Toc H, however, its appeal is in its brotherhood by service. Our responsibility to the untutored races is greater far than that of any Empire now or in the past, and the farther the outpost the more does that responsibility rest on the individual who, alas, in many cases, is not the best that a Christian people can or should produce. If every man who went out into the colonies lived the Christian life, we could close down our missionary work. As it is, the greatest enemy to the Missionary is often the so-called Christian white man. More power, then, to Mr. Baker and those working with and for the "Men of the Trees!"

R. C. G.

NOTE.—To further the work of the "Men of the Trees," an Association has been formed. "This Association," Mr. Baker writes, "is without distinction of class, colour or religion, and encourages friendly relations between its members." Among other objects, "the Association will organise the planting of trees by scouts throughout the world . . . but beneath it lie the foundations of a much wider ideal. . . ." Anyone can become a Life Associate by paying £5 5s., or an Associate for an annual subscription of 5s., or (if under 16) a Comrade for 1s. a year. Any Toc H member interested should write to the Hon. Secretary in England, who is the Hon. Mrs. Grant Duff, 16, Mulberry Walk, Chelsea, S.W.3. The badge of the Association is a green tree on a white shield, with the motto, *We are one*.

"TAKE CARE OF THE PENCE. . ."

THE British have never been credited with being a thrifty people. If we are indeed, as the old gibe says, "a nation of shopkeepers," we have been somewhat improvident ones, more ready to worry through than to ensure, by a little effort, a happy continuity of our means of living. Where demands for thrift from platform and pulpit, by press and poster, failed during many years to move us, the chaotic conditions of the world since the war have forced us to take stock, to number our resources, to discover our strength—and our weakness. The war has impoverished our nation, and the wealth of the nation, after all, consists of the wealth of the individuals who compose it. Economy is not only an "axe" to be wielded by the public executioner in Whitehall, but a humbler chopper which Everyman has to apply in his own home.

In 1916 the National Savings Movement came into being, with its text "Wise saving and wise spending." Steadily and quietly, like all great works, it has propagated its gospel up and down the country, teaching the need for thoughtful spending, the value of money, and the individual, social and national benefits of saving. As a result, slowly but indisputably,

thrift is becoming a habit with our people. In spite of decreased wages, short time and national depression of trade, the savings of the population of Great Britain have increased enormously. The returns of the various savings banks show a monthly aggregate of deposits far in excess of those of pre-war days, and these deposits are mainly made by working people, those who suffer most through the stress of the times. In addition to these bank deposits, it is an eloquent fact that some 700,000,000 National Savings Certificates (the instrument of the National Savings Movement) have been sold since they were introduced in 1916.

The Movement works through the medium of Savings Associations, of which there are already more than 19,000 operating in the country. Such an Association may be formed wherever people meet together regularly for any purpose, *e.g.*, in works, schools, clubs, Bible classes—or Toc H Branches. It is officered by voluntary workers, men or women, and those who act in this capacity are doing a great service for their neighbours, by improving the conditions of life for the less wealthy (which means most of us) and for the whole nation by helping to stabilise economic conditions. We rejoice in Toc H to sing "Glory, glory be that we are stony-brokeum!"—but, perhaps, it sounds best as the light-hearted slogan of the man who has saved money by self-denial in order to have it to spend on people that need it and things that matter.

During last summer, leaflets concerning the National Savings scheme were sent out by Headquarters to all secretaries of Branches and Groups. Already, before that, several Northern Branches of Toc H (no, not merely north of Tweed, where saving is second nature) had begun to get going with Savings Associations. Let us see how it has worked in a typical case. The Branch opened the campaign by inviting an official of the National Savings Committee to be the speaker at a guest-night. He handled his subject well, and came triumphantly through the fire of questions at the end. The meeting ended with a resolution, passed unanimously, "that a Savings Association be formed in this Branch of Toc H." A secretary and treasurer were at once appointed and spent half an hour after the meeting with the Savings Committee representative in mastering the very simple system of accounts. The forms used are supplied free by the Committee, and explain themselves. The secretary and treasurer were then registered by the National Savings headquarters, and authorised to take out savings certificates in the name of their own particular Savings Association. They booked members of the Branch for as many certificates as they wished to take—on a principle which in itself provides a certain touch of amusement. The principle is that a member pays 6d. a week for thirty-two weeks for each certificate. Every time the treasurer has 16s. in hand—the price of a £1 certificate—he buys one. It is then balloted for at the weekly guest-night by those who have paid into the savings fund. The certificate itself is not, of course, passed over to the lucky winner until all his deposits are paid, but retained in the treasurer's possession for the full cycle of thirty-two weeks—at the end of which time it is handed out, *plus* the interest which has accrued. The winner of the first week's draw thus receives his 16s. plus thirty-two weeks' interest, and later winners earn, of course, less interest in proportion. Ballot numbers correspond with the number of certificates, not with the total of members subscribing—*i.e.*, if a member wishes to buy five certificates, he pays in 2s. 6d. a week and receives five numbers, each of which has an equal chance of being drawn.

The Branch in question finds its Savings Association a real success, and believes it to be now well established. Other Branches and Groups would do well to join in this merry and really useful game. They can get every kind of help and advice (best given by a speaker at a Branch or Group meeting) in starting a Savings Association by applying to the National Savings Committee, Princes House, Kingsway, London, W.C.2. Take care of the pence—and you'd be surprised!

SOME CAMP NOTES

CAMP! This month brings the opening of the camping season, and in one way or another —*apropos* of Territorials, Clubs, Scouts, Cadets, C.L.B. or Boys' Brigade—"Camp" will be the password to real life for hundreds of Toc H members during the next three months. There will be some camping for camping's sake, and a great deal more for the sake of the Younger Brother. The veteran will chuckle and the tyro be half incredulous at a sheet of notes from a Woolwich member headed "*Where to spend your Summer holidays.*" "My first visit to Norman's Bay," he writes, "meant also my first experience of a real corporate union of men and boys of all types and denominations, and with no experience behind me, I went down there much as I would walk into a 'haunted castle' on the front at Margate, in other words, with no certain footsteps. But, like everything else, it was not what I thought it would be. For 24 hours or so everything appeared just a bit strange and new, and one felt rather as an unentertained visitor than as belonging to the camp, and then all of a sudden one found oneself having dropped right into the 'show' and become an actual part of the 'Great Wheel' of camp-life. From then onward nothing could have been better, not even a holiday abroad or on the Broads, and incidentally nothing could be better for the training of one's own character. I have had the good fortune to travel all round the world, but nothing was quite so good as this. Apart from the intoxicating contentment, with which these camps fill a man the whole time he is there, they flood his mind with happy memories when they are over; he carries away a picture, never to be forgotten, of a playing-field of exuberant activity and happy faces. Happiness runs riot the whole time through the camp, and the spirit of good-will, rather than of mere kindness, pervades everything and everyone. The freedom of the open (indefinite as it is by itself) when leavened by companionship, strikes a definite and direct note in the realisation of Christian love."

Below are details of some of the camps run under Toc H auspices or largely staffed by Toc H members. There must be many more such, and the Editor of the JOURNAL would be glad to receive notice of them from the men or branches concerned for publication in next month's issue.

1. TOC H SPORTS CLUB, LONDON.

i. *Camp-site* on the Sports Ground, Folly Farm, New Barnet, suitable for parties up to sixty boys. Open all through the Summer.

ii. *Equipment.* Toc H provides tents, ground-sheets, cooking gear, lanterns, spades, wood-choppers, &c., and washing facilities. Parties bring their own blankets, plates and mugs, knives, forks and spoons.

iii. *Applications,* stating dates required, number of boys, names of persons in charge and whether clubs, scouts, &c., to be sent to F. Domone, Mark VII, 15, Fitzroy Square, W.1.

2. NORMAN'S BAY.

i. *Camp-site* between Bexhill and Eastbourne, close to Norman's Bay Halt. Canvas camp, with ample marquee accommodation.

ii. *Open* June 26—August 28 for School Journeys, Training Ship boys, Guardians' School and parties from clubs and parish organisations (preference given to Toc H-run clubs and parties from Southwark Diocese).

iii. *Charges.* For boys under 16—12s. 6d. per week; over 16—15s. per week (exclusive of fare: under 16, 4s. return; over 16, 7s. 11d. return).

iv. *Helpers* wanted, *viz.* (a) Full-time workers: students and others who will take on orderly officer or company duty, games, food supervision, &c. (Board and lodging, £1 per week.) (b) Part-time workers (*i.e.*, men working in office or factory who come to spend a hard-earned fortnight's holiday in camp). These are required to help with meals, morning and evening routine, sing-songs and athletics. (Board and lodging 26s. per week.)

v. *Applications* to be made to Padre C. W. Hutchinson, Toc H Mark XV, 31, The Common, Woolwich, S.E.

3. EXETER J.O.C.

(As reported in the May JOURNAL, p. 148, the Exeter Branch of Toc H has undertaken the administration of the invested fund, the camp and the headquarter building of the J.O.C.)

i. *Camp-site* at Dawlish Warren.

ii. *Open* to organisations of all kinds. The organisation concerned provides its own officers and is responsible for its own catering. A nominal sum of about 6d. per head per week to cover wear and tear of tents, &c., is charged.

iii. *Fixtures* (with numbers of campers) for the season include May 29—June 5, Joseph Barrett School, London (30); May 30—June 7, Exeter Boys' Brigade (30); June 1—6, Bideford C.L.B. (40); June 13—28, Central Boys' School (30); June 18—30, and July 1—9, Capt. Bates, Bristol (10 each time); July 3—10, Y.M.C.A., Swindon (30); July 14—27, Exminster School (40); August 1—8, Culmington Bible Class (10); August —, Salvation Army Scouts (10); August 1—15, Salvation Army Chums (10); August 9—15, Mint Boys' Bible Class (8); August 9—16, Exeter Boys' Brigade (50); August 16—23, Salvation Army Girl Chums (20); August 22—29, Girls' Life Brigade (30); August 24—30, Mint Girls' Bible Class (10). At various times the Exeter Branch members and the boys of the Toc H Boys' Club are camping there. A few schoolmasters, with the approval of the Exeter Education Committee, have arranged open-air schools at the camp.

iv. *Applications* to W. G. Michelmores, 18, Cathedral Yard, Exeter.

4. BARROW.

i. *Camp-site* at Barrow, near Chester. The camp is organised by the Police Court and Prison Gate Mission for boys aged 14 to 18 on probation as first offenders. About 40 in number.

ii. *Date*: July 4—18.

iii. *Staff* for the last three years has been practically provided by members of Toc H Branches in and around Manchester. The Commandant asks for similar help again this year, and writes that "those who assist, of course, come as our guests."

(NOTE: Many Manchester members attend courses at the Scout training camp at Dunham Park, near Altrincham.)

5. COVENTRY BRANCH.

i. *Camp-site* near the village of Baginton (3 miles from Coventry). Tents left standing from Whitsun to the end of September. The camp is used in August by about twenty of the boys of the Coventry Toc H Boys' Club, aged 10—14; they pay 2s. 6d. each. These are mostly specially difficult boys picked out by Toc H members as belonging to no other club. At other times the camp can be used by Branch members.

6. STOCKPORT BRANCH.

i. *Camp-site* at Hall's Farm, Adlington, Cheshire, in the hills, 100 yards from the Macclesfield Canal.

ii. *Open* from Whitsun to the end of August. A marquee and sleeping equipment for a dozen persons, but would easily accommodate a dozen more; small cook-house. Intended for the use of the Branch's own Boys' Club and other boys' organisations. Boys are charged about 6d. a day and the Branch has a small fund to make up deficiency on running. The camp will be used one week-end a month by Stockport Branch members (and any other Toc H men who care to come).

iii. *Applications* to W. Greaves, 44, Brinksway, Stockport.

7. THE SUSSEX BOYS' CAMP.

Organised by the Brighton and Hove Juvenile Welfare Council, and largely staffed by local Toc H members. The camp is held at Glyndebourne, near Lewes, and can take 80 to 100 boys.

PLAYING FIELDS FOR ALL

NEARLY two years ago Lieut.-Col. Ronnie Campbell (a member of Toc H, and, at that time Director of Physical training for the Army) addressing a crowded guest night at Mark I, gave a vivid picture of the disastrous effects on character by the suppression in the young of their desire for play, when he showed how the sullen and evil-tempered dog, required for guarding property, was often manufactured by keeping him chained as a puppy, and deprived of play. After instancing the examples of countries such as Denmark and Sweden in their public gymnasia and play centres, he appealed to Toc H to make a similar provision in our own country the programme for a united corporate job. About the same time as Ronnie Campbell made his appeal to Toc H, H.R.H. the Duke of York was also struck by the great need for extension of the facilities for play in our crowded centres of population, and asked that a report might be prepared and submitted to him on this matter.

The first result of this report has been a letter of appeal, recently published in the Press signed by leading men in politics, church, sport and many branches of social activity, for support to the formation, and in the work of a proposed *National Playing Fields Association*. No worker among boys doubts the need for open spaces, and it is certain that our membership generally will approve of the action of Toc H headquarters in writing to the organisers of the Association, offering such practical support as can be given by our members throughout the country. In the grateful acknowledgment to this offer, it has been suggested to us that our branches should give all support possible in the formation of local committees of the Association for the purpose of formulating schemes and arousing public opinion, as also in obtaining statistics as to the present area and distribution of open playing spaces in comparison with the child population in their own towns and cities. We should be able to rely confidently on our membership for this support and co-operation. There is also another side to this question which would seem to be essentially a Toc H job, and without which the provision of further playing fields will be of little service, and that is the teaching of the child, who is born and bred in the "slum" area, how to play. Generally speaking, a great many of the existing play centres are not used even by those who live in close proximity to them, and this will be one of the first arguments used by those who, for financial reasons, or because of vested interests, may oppose the acquisition of land for play purposes. A small party of Toc H fellows armed with a cricket set or some footballs, who would go into the mean streets, collect the kiddies there and take them along to the nearest park or common ground and play with them, would be of immense service not only in defeating the argument as to lack of demand, but also in working for the real object of the Association. That object is to give the fullest scope to the child's instinct for play, an instinct ordained for the development of healthy character, temperament, and body, without which no people can expect to develop on Christian lines.

R. C. G

"WHEN, as a Prison Commissioner, I get a trivial complaint from a prisoner, I always feel inclined to go up to the man and take him firmly by the shoulder and shake him and say: 'You have a complaint, but this is not the one you ought to make. The complaint you ought to make to me and to the rest of English society should be in such words as these: "You allowed me to be born and brought up in a wretched little room, where there were far more others than there ought to have been. You sent me to school where I was in a crowded class of fifty or sixty children, so that the teacher could not give me much individual attention. You put me in a playground where there was not room for one-tenth of us to play. When I left school you found no employment for me, or, if I did get a bit of work to do, you left me with nothing to do and nowhere to go in the evenings?" That is the average complaint a prisoner should make against society. . . . I make bold to say that the greatness of a city—at any rate in the scales of humanity—does not consist in its prosperity and the comfort of its leading citizens, or in the honours which it chooses to shower upon them. The greatness of your city is measured by the care which you take of the most unhappy, the most misguided, and the most unfortunate of your citizens, and upon the help and service which you render to those listless figures whom you often see long after midnight prowling in your quiet streets.'"—*Alec Paterson, in a speech to the Birmingham Discharged Prisoners Aid Society, March 13, 1924.*

MULTUM IN PARVO

♣ We have to record two deaths, both occurring at Ascension-tide, which touch very nearly beloved members of the Toc H family. TUBBY has lost his sister (a notice of whom appears on p. 162) and SAWBONES his father. The sympathy and affection of all Toc H goes out to them especially at this time.

♣ On May 21 the appointment of LORD PLUMER as High Commissioner for Palestine was announced and H.Q. sent him warmest congratulations and good wishes in the name of Toc H, to which he replied. He takes up his duties at the end of this month.

♣ The old Branches of Toc H will join in congratulations and good wishes to the latest recruit to their ranks. IPSWICH was promoted, as No. 81, to Branch status by the Central Executive on June 2.

♣ "The Gilbert Talbot Lamp," granted among the first batch in 1922 to FARNHAM (Gilbert's home) has been withdrawn by the Guard of the Lamp. The Branch has been moribund for some time and was the only one in England which was not represented at last year's Birthday Festival. Its reduction will be proposed when the Central Council next meets.

♣ Padre EDWARD HARRISON of Liverpool comes fully on to the strength of Toc H padres on July 1. When his appointment was announced in the February JOURNAL (p. 55) it was noted that he would have to find a curate before taking up his Toc H duties. We can now welcome the curate in the person of the Rev. J. P. P. GORTON (late of Knutsford and Oxford Toc H).

♣ Toc H was well represented among the crusaders of the INDUSTRIAL CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP at Bristol in the middle of May. Canon E. S. WOODS (Cambridge Branch padre) was leader of the Crusade, Padre HARRISON (Liverpool) played a big part, BARKIS addressed a special meeting, and BROMLEY (Leeds), SINGLETON (Norwich), WILKINS (Southampton) and JOHNSTON (Portsmouth) were among the regular crusaders.

♣ GEORGE KERSWELL (Worthing Branch) whose non-stop energy has been largely responsible for a chain of branches and groups being established all along the Sussex coast, has been appointed by the Central Executive as "Hon. Commissioner" of Toc H in that area. This is part of a scheme of which further details will be published soon. At the same time the Rev. W. F. BOND (Lancing College), who has done fine service for Worthing, Shoreham and Lancing as padre, has been appointed an Hon. Toc H Padre.

♣ The WESTERN CONFERENCE will be held at Bristol on Saturday, June 27, and Sunday, June 28. Members of Western Branches and Groups should write at once to Padre Hawkins at Mark IX. The third NORTHERN CONFERENCE will be held at Mark XII, Halifax, on July 11-12. Northern Branches and Groups are sending at least one delegate each. Accommodation costs 7s. 6d. Names of delegates and suggestions or resolutions for the agenda should reach Arthur Lodge at Mark XII not later than June 13. AN INTER-VARSITY CONFERENCE is being held at Oxford on June 20-21, when Cambridge members will be guests of the sister branch.

♣ KENT RALLY: The Canterbury Branch extend a most forcible invitation to all members dwelling in Kent, and to any others who can come, to gather on Saturday, July 4, at 2.45 p.m., at 17, The Precincts, Canterbury, by kind invitation of Archdeacon and Mrs. Macmillan. The programme will be:—Service in the Cathedral Crypt with address by the Rev. J. W. Woodhouse; tea; a personally conducted tour of the Cathedral under Archie & Co.; talks (brief, bright and breezy—it is hoped) ending with a sing-song. Those who can go should drop the Branch Secretary a card.

♣ On Ascension Day, a perfect spring morning, 182 London members made their communion at 7.15 a.m., specially remembering the Pilgrims overseas and the scattered family of Toc H. Harry Ellison celebrated, assisted by Padres Muirhead Hope, George Moore, Macfarland, Brochner and De Candole.

♣ If any member has a spare copy of the JOURNAL for October, 1922 (the first number with an orange cover), H.Q. would be very glad to have it—if necessary at face value. A few of these are required to complete sets for binding.

SECRETARIES' LIST, *May Alterations and Additions*:—(a) *New Groups*: CHILLIWACK (British Columbia), S. L. Brice, Box 312; ESHER, P. M. G. Talbot, Glenhurst; HIGHGATE, R. W. Hunt, 65, High Street, N.6; LANCING COLLEGE, R. H. James, Sanderson's House. (b) *Change of Secretary*: ALDERSHOT, R. J. Hibberd, 17, High Street; BUENOS AIRES, W. Peat, c/o The British Society, Lavalle, 349; EALING, F. A. Wallis, 1, King's Avenue, W.5; GRANTHAM, O. W. Lee, 34, North Parade; SYDENHAM, H. C. Foster, 27, Taylors Lane, S.E.26. (c) *Change of Address*: MARK II (c), TORONTO is now 614, Huron Street. L.W.H.—(i) *New Groups*: CROYDON, Mrs. Logan, Chester House School, Croydon, S.E.25; GATESHEAD, Mrs. Rodgers, 5, Oxford Terrace; WINNIPEG, Mrs. Darracott, 574, Pine Street. (ii) *Change of Secretary*: HAROLD WOOD, Mrs. Pratt, 1, Waveney Villas, Church Road; ROTHERHAM, Miss Challiner, 16, Princes Street. (iii) *Change of Address*: PIMLICO Secretary, Miss Richardson, to 32, Bassett Road, Ladbroke Grove, W.10. (iv) *Corredion*: HALIFAX Secretary's address is 18, Wolsley (not Worsley) Terrace.

NEWS FROM BRANCHES AND GROUPS

ALDERSHOT.—Toc H has at last, after nearly 12 months' patient endeavour, started out in Farnborough. With great regret we have to record the death of Padre Bernard Keymer, mainly to whose efforts the linking up with us was due. In April we had a visit from Alex Birkmire with a refresher of our aims. We also welcome Wally Watford, late of Mark IV. Work for our own Fresh Air Fund is proceeding apace, and in Cove and Farnborough scouting is going strong.

Meetings: (Of one sort or another) every Monday and Thursday. "Spud Hut," Redan Hill. June 22, Special Meeting, Padre Meade, of Mark V. MILO.

BELFAST.—A whist drive in Craigavon, and beginnings of summer excursions for the disabled have been the chief events in May. At our first meeting we were to have had a paper on Savonarola, but business matters took too long. A fortnight later, Savonarola came to his own, and we had a very fine paper, in spite of more business. Some twelve rules have been drafted, and we may succeed in our desire to be businesslike. On practical matters we continue to shine, but the only night we were really informal, we were evicted! The Somme Anniversary Supper will be held on the first of July. PAT.

BEXHILL.—On May 1 we had our annual meeting, with a good number present. Terry's report was received with acclamation. Among other things he enumerated our jobs and asked for a Jobmaster—and we gave him one. Dean, our padre, was, of course, asked to carry on, Terry was re-elected Secretary, Croosh Treasurer (three quid in hand) and Snowball Jobmaster. We have been asked to do up the Barrack Road Cemetery before Whitsun, to go and prepare the way for Padre Hutch at Norman's Bay, to run cricket and water-polo teams and give sundry concerts during the summer months—so we've got off our coats. Terry, by the way, has been recommended for District Cubmaster. On May 29 Major Isles speaks to us on "The Boys' Life Brigade." TARZAN.

BIRMINGHAM.—*We've bought a pub!* or, at least, the husk of one. For the licence has gone and those delightful handles which look like the levers in a signal box have gone, too. Rather splendidly the name of this new home from home for Birmingham Toc H, is called the "Alhambra," and the Bing Boys will be there with nobs on. We are now busy raising the remainder of the money for its conversion—literal and metaphorical. So a long silence in these columns will not mean that we do not value them, but that we are immersed in a shoal of answers to our appeal. Our storm troops invaded Stoke-on-Trent at the end of April, and made a brilliant attack on a really good supper that was ready for us on our arrival. Toidel, Nickie and Jobmaster Norman all worked hard at the dance, which resulted in a good sum being sent up to H.Q., and a three days' drive—twice nightly—at a music hall, where we collected for the National Institution for the Blind, made about £20 for them and sent us home with a certain amount of live stock collected in the gallery. Certainly the most stimulating talk we have had for some time was one on "Palestine and Zionism," by Bushell of Solihull, who is on our local Council, and Oogaf gave a lurid account of his flying adventures and escapades in the under world of Vienna and Prague.

Coming events: June 27 and 28, Toc H week end at Freeford Hall, Lichfield, thanks to Dyott, late of the Gunners; July 18, "Wild West Round up" (to get money for Rovers and Toc H) in the Botanical Gardens.

SKIPPER.

BLACKBURN.—The fact that this is our first appearance in these pages for three months in no way indicates idleness, for we have been getting our feet firmer for the tasks which lie ahead. At our last meeting we discussed our summer programme, and among dates of interest fixed up are a bowling match at a country hostelry, and a second cricket match with the Balderstone C.C. (which last year captured 10 wickets for 2 runs!)

Next Meeting: June 4 at the Parish Men's Club, Cont Street.

BUBBLES.

BRIGHTON.—A splendid opportunity for the Brighton Branch to render some distinct service to the community has presented itself in the John Street Toc H Boys' Hostel. Notwithstanding the financial obligations entailed in the venture, the members have shouldered the responsibility, and it is now up to each one to do his and her utmost to make this Hostel a place where the Gospel will be proclaimed without preaching it. Situated in the slum area of fashionable Brighton, the Hostel will be a place where newspaper lads and hawkers can obtain a night's clean "doss" at a nominal price. Quite as important as the service we may be able to render these lads will be the good our own members will derive from devoting time and thought to this needed social work. Some of our members will take part in the Sussex Boys' Camp in August, which brings together boys from the Public Schools, workshops and factories of Sussex, and tries to show them "the better way" of true comradeship. Organised by the Brighton and Hove Juvenile Welfare Council, this camp has aroused much local interest. The "Toc Emmas" mean to show us that they are very much alive, and are arranging a social evening to which the men are to be invited.

MATT.

BUENOS AIRES.—We had a very pleasant meeting on Tuesday, April 7, with a record attendance. As the guest of the evening, Major McColl, the Canadian Trade Commissioner to the Argentine, gave us a very informative talk on the trade development in that corner of the Empire, and we went off at the end of the evening with heads full of hundreds of millions of dollars' worth of wheat, butter, &c. We are greatly indebted to Major McColl, and thanks to him are better able to appreciate the vastness and immense possibilities of Canada. We have a sad piece of news to impart in the resignation of Malcolm Pullbrook from the executive for reasons not stated. He has done an immense amount of work for the Branch, and we hope yet to induce him to stay on the executive as Treasurer. Peat, who has hitherto been Spare

Part and Assistant Secretary, has been promoted, and will dive in and endeavour to cope with an increasing volume of work occasioned by an ever-growing membership. Our House is still lying somewhere around Buenos Aires, unfound, but our sleuth-hounds are tireless, and when they get the scent, the whole branch will be down on it like a shot.

W. PEAT.

CANADA.—Mark I (C), Winnipeg, should make splendid progress from now on if the enthusiasm and spirit inspired by Tubby and his co-adventurer Pat during their visit here in April are sustained. They were only here five days, but working intensively (at times with coats and collars off and shirt sleeves rolled) they “put their message over” in magnificent style to widely representative groups of Winnipeg’s citizenry. Their tour has been termed “a voyage of discovery,” but the discovery part seems mainly for those whom they visit or chance to meet en route. To record in detail their numerous adventures in the prairie metropolis would be largely repetition of their visits to other Canadian cities. Suffice to say they thrilled large congregations of various denominations, service club groups, junior and senior, and hundreds of boy scouts and their leaders with their splendid challenge of unselfish sacrifice. The itinerant padres were even initiated into the mysteries of the Winnipeg Grain Exchange. Of primary importance to Old Country Tocaichers, we believe, will be the effect of their visit on the family and outer ring of members here. The branch meeting subsequent to their departure revealed that they had instilled into us all a much deeper appreciation of what Toc H stands for, while it was emphatically indicated that in the future “jobs” will find an even more hearty response to his numerous calls for volunteers. To the branch the outstanding feature of having Tubby and Pat here was the night they spent with the members in the lounge room. Here we had a good frank heart-to-heart talk with them. When the Napoleon of Benevolence and his Marshal Ney had answered all our questions (and they were both numerous and intimate) and had told us a few things in addition, our alleged mountainous problems had either vanished or dwindled to the dimensions of mole-hills. We found that practically every problem we presented had been met or overcome in the early stages of various English branches. We learned also of obstacles much more momentous than our own which other branches had tackled and invariably overcome. As a result the old spirit of “Pop” is flaming up brighter than ever and casting a wider and stronger reflection into the life of Winnipeg, and soon, we hope, beyond—thanks to itinerant members and through the medium of the radio. One question that Tubby was able to answer definitely as far as Winnipeg is concerned was: “Isn’t Toc H purely an Anglican organization?” He was able to point out that the membership of the Winnipeg branch was only 30 per cent. Anglican, and that this proportion must inevitably decrease as the branch expands, due, of course, to the fact that members of other denominations easily outnumber Anglicans in Canada. This may prove ammunition when answering doubters in other quarters of the globe.

* * * * *

It was the writer’s privilege to accompany Tubby on his visit to *Saskatoon*, Saskatchewan. Pat had gone straight on to Edmonton, Alberta. Tubby was in Saskatoon April 24, 25, 26 and 27. The first day he addressed a joint meeting of the Canadian and Women’s Canadian clubs. Confining his remarks chiefly to the post-war development of Toc H, Tubby aroused considerable enthusiasm among his auditors. The feature of the meeting, however, from the Toc H viewpoint was a reply by the Secretary of the Men’s Club. He had been a Major in one of the first Canadian regiments to proceed overseas and knew the old House in “Pop” intimately. This speaker dwelt at some length on the activities within the war-time Hostel and its great assistance and influence among all troops who were lucky enough to visit it and meet

its host. He cited several instances of heroic sacrifice for which a Toc H branch in Saskatoon would make a fitting and dynamic memorial, and assured Tubby that there was the nucleus among those present for the formation of an active group. After the meeting Tubby received several assurances of support, and the President and Secretary of the Women's Club volunteered on the spot for service with the Toc Emmas. As they were all persons of considerable influence in that locality prospects are rosy for Toc H's development in Saskatoon, which is an important educational and agricultural centre. The provincial university, with its splendid agricultural college, one of the normal schools and two collegiates are established there. Tubby also "preached" in two Saskatoon churches and addressed meeting of boy scouts and the local militia.

JEFFY.

CHELTHENHAM.—

How doth the shabby X contrive to eat such whopping suppers?
For food he craves, and so he saves by walking on his uppers.

Five roubles will be paid for a better rhyme; per contra, five hundred pounds sterling will be paid for a worse. Mention of "sterling" is a reminder that "Grantibus" visited the branch on April 30. His talk was first-rate but the branch was strangely quiet. Perhaps as the L.W.H. was present they wished to pose as strong silent men, or, may be, the speaker's verbal pictures of H.Q. personalities took the provincials' breath away. On May 15 we had Col. Orr, of Bristol, who gave a lantern lecture on "The North-West Frontier." A tophole exposition followed by a knowledgeable discussion on British policy and the future of India. During the discussion an interesting revelation was made concerning that great mystery, "Where do the flies go?" They go to the N.W. Frontier. It appears, however, that the poor little things do not live long, being unable to assimilate the atmosphere of the tents. June 16 will bring an old favourite of the branch, Rev. W. E. Beck of St. Paul's Training College. His subject is "The pedigree of our sporting spirit." This suggests:

Why is the brow of poor XY with care so heavy laden?
He has bad dreams, he wakes and screams, he fears he's bowled a maiden.

This wins the five hundred, and brings to memory the fact that we played a cricket match against Cheltenham Banks on May 26, victory going to the Shekelites by three wickets.

Just So.

COLCHESTER.—On April 25 we fed at Day's Restaurant. Alex Birkmire came from London and C. W. Cuthill from Clacton to join us. After supper Alex Birkmire rose to his feet and hinted politely, yet pointedly, that Toc H exists not to "serve tables," but to serve humanity. He did us all good, and we shall remember his words. On the next day (Sunday) he preached at two local Wesleyan churches and told them about Toc H, to their great interest and enlightenment. We are very grateful for his visit, and expect it to bear much fruit.

W. C. P.

COVENTRY.—The branch is growing with such rapidity that we shall soon have to discuss the question of enlarging our quarters. Though we are expanding fast, we are not careless about whom we admit. In fact we feel very strongly that quality must come before quantity and would-be members are told exactly what will be required of them. Consequently we have a host of workers. Each year a carnival is held in support of the Coventry Hospital on a very big scale. This year we have been entrusted with raiding the villages, which we are doing by taking out to them "King Carnival" on a motor lorry. His Majesty's figure, gigantic in proportions and doomed to ultimate incineration, took a good deal of the branch's ingenuity to construct. We have between six and seven hundred entries for the sports we are holding for local scouts and cadets and *The Midland Daily Telegraph* has presented us with a massive silver cup to be competed for annually at these sports. It is a beautiful piece of workmanship with a replica

of the Lamp of Maintenance on top, and an engraving, exquisitely done, of the "upper room," on the obverse. Camp this week and until the autumn. All our other activities as usual, or rather more so.

DOLLY.

CROWBOROUGH BEACON.—Following two preliminary drawing-room meetings at the second of which a group was definitely formed, we brought the matter before the public at a meeting at the Scouts' Hut, when Alex Birkmire gave an inspiring address which resulted in many new and enthusiastic members and increasing our roll to 22. On May 22 we held our first group meeting in the Scouts' Hut, and decided to do some very necessary gardening at the Cottage Hospital, and to raise funds for a wireless set for that institution. We also decided to do our best to find some scout masters and assistants for local troupes and to be officially represented on the organising committee of a Summer Carnival and Battle of Flowers in aid of the hospital and fire brigade. Various other jobs were also discussed.

Meetings will be held fortnightly on Fridays during summer.

NOBBY.

GATESHEAD.—Our trumpeter having expired after the last effort, has been resurrected by the burst of sunshine, and got to work again. Our Christmas treat to 100 poor boys was a "perfect treat" in all respects. It was most amusing to watch a boy trying to get outside a blancmange, after filling up with the roast beef of Old England. The mouth organ orchestra will never be forgotten. Amongst our visitors on that occasion was the Chief Constable, who, we are proud to say, is now one of us. Our next great event was the re-dedication of our Lamp of Maintenance, which was kindly given to us by Colonel Martin to commemorate the fallen of the local Territorial battalion of the D.L.I., which he commands. This service was held in St. Mary's Church (the Mother Church of Gateshead), and was honoured by a full parade of the 9th D.L.I. The carrying of the battalion colours to the Altar and the Lighting of the Lamp by Colonel Martin was most impressive, and will never be forgotten by the large congregation present. We are pleased to relate that Colonel Martin ("Martini") is also one of us, and chairman of our executive. Our last social effort has been a whist drive and dance, which, through the combined efforts of our members and our newly-formed L.W.H., was a great success, and has been the means of bringing us into the public eye. Work, both individual and combined, has been going steadily forward and covers a wide field of operations, including boys' clubs, scouts, hospitals, mission to seamen, &c. We are strongly represented on the Rota Committees of the local Labour Exchange, and are gradually getting our feet firmly planted on other committees in the town. Our choral society has been going round cheering (?) the sick and needy in various places. The last "offence" was to swamp "Mac" at Wooley Sanatorium, when they made their big effort in producing an operetta entitled *Phyllis*. "Mac" and his crowd are a hardy lot, and on making inquiries we are pleased to learn no one has reported any ill effects. We have many big things in view, but more anon.

L. R.

GRANTHAM.—Sawbones honoured the branch with a visit in February, Arthur Lodge in March, Barkis in April and Macgrath, of Sheffield, in May. They all gave us a great deal to think about, and we are grateful to them for it. The chairman at the May meeting is also one of the vice-presidents of the branch, Lord Brownlow. He told us that he was an intimate friend of Neville Talbot and remembered the starting of the Old House in Poperinghe while he was there, and was very keen about the present work of Toc H. People are pressing us to undertake many jobs now. O. W. Lee is our new Secretary, and George Pacey becomes Job-master.

G. R. P.

HAROLD WOOD.—Our Scout work is now a definite fact, and up to the time of writing we have 30 enrolled and all enthusiastic in their work. The Girl Guides held a special service at the Institute on Empire Day, which was supported by the Scouts and the village generally, with

Toc H to make the number up. A squad went over on May 20 to hear Uncle Harry at Romford, and they thoroughly enjoyed it. The pierrot troupe are also hard at work on a new programme, but really lack a regular pianist, but hope one will function in the near future. Our monthly Church Parade took place on Sunday, May 17, where we heard encouraging things from the Rev. B. Hartley. At our guest night next Monday our padre gives us "Some American Impressions" formed on a recent visit. We now look forward to the happy family idea being completed here, as we have the Girl Guides, League of Women Helpers, Boy Scouts, Women's Institute and Toc H. Surely we can rope in everyone in one or the other. H. F. M.

LEICESTER.—Two events stand out in the month's activities. The first was the three days' bazaar on behalf of the Waifs and Strays Society, in the organising of which "Webby" and "Fossie" laboured long and strenuously, and for which the branch provided stewards and a concert party. The £1,000 raised is sufficient evidence of the bazaar's success. The second event was the very happy "house-party" of secretaries and jobmasters held at Mark XI on May 23 and 24. Mark IV sent its warden, and Mansfield its jobmaster, and both secretary and jobmaster came from Birmingham, Coventry, Derby, Hinckley, Loughborough and Nottingham. Monty Callis (Manchester), Billy Williams (Sheffield), Arthur Lodge (Halifax), and F. L. Allan (Worcester) attended as "spare parts." The "house-party" was an experiment in an informal conference, with neither agenda nor set discussions, and the result fully justified it. From 5.15 to 8 p.m. on Saturday we just talked in the House, after supper in "Felix's" beautiful garden, and on Sunday from 10.30 to 12.30 in the House again. Secretaries, jobmasters, &c., met as respective sections, and at the end we all joined up and gave an informal *résumé* of the findings. There was Holy Communion at 8 a.m., and a service at 12.30 on Sunday. Out of it all grew a widening of outlook and a deepening of the family spirit, and behind it was the wonderfully unselfish "staff work" of Mr. and Mrs. "Major," and the hostel team. Our guest nights during the month have also been memorable. On April 29 Mr. A. J. S. Cannon, headmaster of Ellis Avenue Intermediate School, let us into the secret of how he puts "the spirit of Eton into a slum school." The following week "Felix Senior" gave us an excellent talk on "A National Insurance System." Our secretary seems to have been most wise in his choice of a parent who can be produced at a branch meeting at short notice, complete with subject and nickname. Jobmaster "Bill" took the evening of May 13 and drew a remarkable "house," as always, for his monthly turn. On May 20 Coalville imploded—a small party in a big 'bus. The star of the evening was "Uncle Newt" Fowkes, who told us some of the story of his 73 years, more than 60 of which he has spent working in a mine. What better warmth for the "House that love built" than the coal that love hewed? "Uncle Newt" draws the kind of applause that hitherto we have reserved for the Patron or for Tubby. Skipper Emerson and Corporal Rees, V.C., also had their share in a memorable evening.

Meetings: Every Wednesday at Mark XI at 8 p.m. June 10, Padre Hutch on "Camp"; June 17, *What About It?*—a revue, with Bill in the principal rôle; June 24, Nobby Clarke of Oxford; July 1, to be arranged by Ernest Childs; July 8, Canon Powell.

LINCOLN.—Our Boys' Club has closed down for the summer months, after a very successful season. On April 23 we held a dance at the Assembly Rooms; a very pleasant evening was spent and Toc H was brought before many who were not previously acquainted with it. April 26 will be remembered by us all as a red-letter day. Our Lamp was re-dedicated in All Saints' Church at the evening service. Our padre preached a sermon which was an inspiration to us all to get on with the practical ideals of Toc H. On May 13 we ran a stall at All Saints' Church bazaar, and sold metal work made by disabled sailors and soldiers and goods made by the blind. On July 17 we are running a flag-day on behalf of the Hull Seamen's Orphanage.

TED.

LONDON FEDERATION.—The map of London in Uncle Harry's cellar at Headquarters, shows a steady growth in new groups since last October, and now that the budding season is over for the time being, we can look around and find these newly-formed groups well under way: Ealing, Esher, Hackney, Hampstead, Highgate, Romford, Stepney, Streatham, Sydenham, Tower Hill, Twickenham and West Ham. Then there are Richmond and Golders Green bursting into bloom, with Battersea, Harlesden and Wood Green showing signs. A promising crop with a natural growth of membership, but London shows many barren spots and next autumn will be a busy time. Last October, as readers of the December JOURNAL will remember, the London Federation pledged itself to go "all out" in the cause of youth. "T'watter sipin' away" was the Bishop of Kensington's description, when discussing the facts emerging from the Commission's report on work among Adolescents in the London Diocese. The outcome of that meeting has been a series of discussions between Toc H and the Diocesan Council for Youth. Any practical steps that are eventually taken can but demand a greater number of leaders, and in every denomination and in every part of London many will be wanted to help many things to happen. The L.C.C. can find no motto; we are just saying "Let's get on with it."

R.

(a) *Croydon*.—The great event, the Croydon Toc H War Graves Pilgrimage, for which the Branch has been working since last June, took place on Saturday and Sunday, May 9-10. The party of pilgrims numbered 182, mostly drawn from within a ten-mile radius of Croydon—though one aged pilgrim came over 500 miles from the North of Scotland. The arrangements, made in conjunction with St. Barnabas' Guild, had been very carefully thought out, and went without a hitch, and the Channel was kind during the crossings both ways. Previous war-graves pilgrimages in which Toc H has taken a hand have had to deal with greater numbers, but not with such a wide area. There were 67 cemeteries to be visited, scattered over an immense stretch of country, but every pilgrim was able to reach the grave which he or she had come to see. The largest division, consisting of Groups 1, 2 and 3 (87 pilgrims) travelled via Dover-Ostend to the cemeteries in the Ypres Salient; Group 4 (27 pilgrims) by Dover-Calais to Arras; Group 5 (26 pilgrims) *via* Dover-Calais-Hazebrouck to Bethune; Group 6 (34 pilgrims) *via* Folkestone-Boulogne to Etaples, Abbeville, Rouen, Amiens, &c.; Group 7 (8 pilgrims) *via* Dover-Ostend-Brussels to places as far afield as Namur, Liège and Valenciennes. Every contingency of travelling, feeding and resting had been foreseen, thanks to Herbert Cook (London General Branch, leader of the Pilgrimage), Barry Robinson (Croydon, hon. secretary of the pilgrimage), Maurice Riesco (Croydon), George Kerswell (Worthing) and many other members of St. Barnabas' Guild, Toc H. and L. W. H. In the Ramparts Cemetery above the Lille Gate at Ypres an unforgettable service was held on Sunday morning. Padre Pat McCormick (Croydon Branch) conducted it—in spite of a very sore throat which sent him off for three weeks' rest on his return—and the hymns familiar to Toc H, *Mine eyes have seen the glory*, *O valiant hearts*, and *For all the saints*, were sung. It was an hour of mourning and remembrance and thanksgiving and self-dedication. Similar services were held at Bethune by Padre McCormick in the afternoon, and at Arras by Padre A. B. Fisher. If anyone still doubts the value of such a pilgrimage to the fathers and mothers, wives, sweethearts and children of the Elder Brethren, he should read some of the letters since received from those who took part. Any one of these is a complete reward to Croydon members and others who took upon themselves the arduous task of organisation and money-raising which made the event possible.

X.Y.Z.

(b) *Hampstead*.—Since our last notice we have had some very interesting meetings. Calkin came up and gave us a kind but severe talking to in February on that all-important

question "Jobs." It was so severe that our Jobmaster could only be pacified with the election of an assistant on the spot. Our Mayor related on March 20 some amusing anecdotes during a very interesting talk on the "Work of the Borough Council" when we were jolly pleased to have Maida Vale as visitors. Their padre will probably remember that evening as he learned quite a lot about Hampstead during a prolonged ramble round the Boro' in search of us. We are getting on with jobs, street-collecting on Daffodil Day, organising a swimming gala, keeping in touch with Borstal lads, and some of us are helping at St. Anne's Boys' Club; and ere the autumn we hope to have started a boys' club in Kilburn. Our dramatic club is busy rehearsing under the guidance of Mac, and they are presenting their maiden effort, *A Thread o' Scarlet*, at a concert on June 26. Meetings will be held at the Blue Café, Heath Street, on June 5 (debate) and July 3 (to be announced later). BILL.

(c) *Mark XV*, at Woolwich, was temporarily handed over to old boys of the training ship *Exmouth* on the afternoon of May 19, when 50 boys presented Padre Hutch with a fine "compactum" type of wardrobe in appreciation of the work and affection spent on them when he was in charge of the Cranleigh School Mission. Capt. Hayes, who is responsible for placing boys on ships, described the fine work Hutch has done, and is still doing, on behalf of these boys, and paid a great tribute to the *Exmouth* training, and the success of the old boys in making their way in the Merchant Service. The presentation was made by Capt. Currie, R.N., commanding the training ship, who, while endorsing all Capt. Hayes had said, also paid tribute to the work of Lionel Meade at Southampton, and the great contribution Toc H was making to the problem of the after-care of the boy in the Mercantile Marine.

In a very happy response, Padre Hutch related his experiences in the Mission and the holiday camps, and emphasised his own debt of gratitude to the boys for the real happiness they had given him by their affection and gratitude, the latter a quality rarely expressed nowadays. He outlined how his work, had been given new possibilities through Toc H, and how the "open door" at Woolwich was being repeated all over the country, and soon throughout the main seaports of the world through Toc H houses and branches. After other speeches the meeting developed into an informal sing-song, finishing with tea, to which some 30 old boys and visitors sat down. Besides Capt. Currie and Capt. Hayes, there were present Father Cory, now in charge of the Mission, Padre Meade, Commander Brougham, R.N., and Commander Long, R.N., and Col. Grant, representing Toc H headquarters—a marked feature of the gathering was the exceptional number of old *Exmouth* boys present, although some of them had to rejoin ships that afternoon, a very real tribute to the affection in which Padre Hutch is held by these sea lads. R.C.G.

(d) *Shows*: (i) *The Toc H Drama League* produced its tenth play at the Cripplegate Theatre on May 16. The misgivings which some of us had beforehand as to the choice of the play by an amateur company were triumphantly falsified. Sutton Vane's *Outward Bound*, a sort of serio-comic sermon on life and death, would be a disaster if played at second-best. But here it was played, in most of its parts, at its very first-best. Indeed, some of the characters at this performance left almost more impression of reality than when seen on the professional London stage last year. Everybody in the play, of course, is *dead* to start with—and consequently very much alive—except the pair of lover "halfways" who just failed with a gas-tap suicide and remain a puzzle to themselves and the audience up to the very end. The philosophic steward and guide, *Scrubby*, played by Ewart Wheeler, Jules Cortes's pathetic drunken *Mr. Prior*, the brazen *Mrs. Cliveden-Banks* of Miss Margaret Elmar, and the bullying *Mr. Lingley* of J. Stuart Bull were all admirable pictures of real people. "Wilstey" had a difficult part in the *Rev. William Duke* (why are stage padres never *quite* ?) and did well with him. We have come to expect the evening's humour from Miss Ada Ruddock, and this time she supplied the finest

combination of humour and pathos in the old land-lady, *Mrs. Midget*; the part, surely, can never be more perfectly given. The whole climax of the play turns on the entry of *The Examiner* in the last act, and Mr. P. L. Eyre in the part looked and acted very finely indeed; to have failed in this would have jeopardised the whole, and he never let it down for a moment. Lastly there was the "halfway" pair. William Baker, as *Henry*, played up with the right anxious hesitancy to Miss Dorothy Vernon's *Ann*—and this last was the most beautiful, sustained and moving piece of acting in the whole evening. Without any of the false compliments of friendship this performance, well put on and produced by Godfrey Downing, was a triumph for any amateur company. Our Drama League goes one better every time—but they have set themselves a very hard standard for their next show!

(ii) Mention should be made here of the performance of *Under Cover*, an American "crook" drama by R. C. Megrue, which was given at the Scala Theatre on May 26 in aid of a fine and difficult adventure of service in South London on which The Brother's House has embarked. We had the super-secret service, a distressed damsel, a snarling "grafter," shots in the dark, and all the fun of the fair in the Raffles manner. Miss Ethel Donaldson had collected an excellent company and herself played the "lead." It all went with a real swing before an enthusiastic house. Rest between the acts was broken by speeches from the Warden of The Brothers' House, Barkis and "B. I.," but as it was a true Toc H audience nobody really minded. The net benefit to the Quinn Square scheme (of which more in these pages soon) was round about £200—for which the most cordial thanks of Toc H goes to the players and those who took tickets.

THESPIAN.

LUTON.—Another strenuous month has gone, and we feel confident that a new group will be formed at Tottenhoe, a village a few miles out. Members have also visited Ealesborough (about eight miles away) and have been asked to go again. Sick people have been visited regularly. Our group meetings (which attract good attendances in spite of the warm weather) have been real good times. May 5 was "a night with the poets," May 12 an "impromptu night," and the following week Kensworth Branch came over and debated with us ("Is war justifiable?"), and we had a very keen discussion. We had one of our best nights on May 19, when "The Duke," one of our quietest members, gave us "character impressions" of the members of the Group. Last but not least came "the Chairman's night," when we had a real Toc H evening.

MANSFIELD.—Since our last notice appeared we have had a talk by the Borough Surveyor on "town planning"—a topic which proved full of interest, and one by the Local Secretary of the N.S.P.C.C. on "the work of his Society"; whilst we have also cemented our friendship with the Nottingham Branch by visiting them to hear Prof. Mackenzie, of Nottingham University College, give a most illuminating lecture on "Psychology, personality and service." The visit was well worth the discomfort entailed by fourteen of us travelling in a motor van designed to hold about half-a-dozen. By holding a rummage sale which realised £7 14s.—the rummage consisting of a truly remarkable collection of curios ranging from a tricycle to a pipe without a stem—we attained a state of hitherto undreamed-of opulence, and were able not only to pay for our piano (which we secured after it had done strenuous duty for many years in a local "pub") but also to have it tuned. On May 15 the Toc Emmas joined us in a social gathering, and arrangements were made for our first birthday party on July 3. On May 1 seven new members were initiated, and on May 22 Padre Billy came over from Sheffield and fired us all with fresh enthusiasm. We helped with a flag day held in the town recently on behalf of the Lifeboat Institution. We are losing Bee, one of our oldest members, who is going to London shortly, but his memory will be kept ever green by the carpet which he presented to us.

TAFFY.

NOTTINGHAM.—The month of May has seen all manner of rush jobs jostling the regular work. Our oarsmen have been on the river with a jolly picnic party of St. Dunstan's men. Our Tic Toc Toos have raised £20 for the After Care of Consumptives Committee. The Ravens are doing Big Brother to a young unfortunate who has come our way. A motorist has solved the 70 miles home-journey problem of a failing consumptive, thereby evoking overwhelming gratitude. Appeals for Flag Day counting have called for the cheerful giving of time. For the future we have to launch a hospital library scheme and organise the week-end for the Hull Sailors Orphans' Band when it comes to town. These on top of regular jobs may cause the Jobmaster to totter but never to fall. Within the branch the outstanding event has been the "implosion" night when Prof. Mackenzie, on "Psychology, Service and Personality" shook us and our visitors up to some purpose. We look forward to a Ramble, a Welfare talk and Mansfield's Birthday party. Before closing, we must confess to being considerably stirred by the Pilgrims' latest communiqué, and pledge ourselves anew to keep the flag flying and advancing.

Meetings: At 3, Howard Street, June 5 and 19.

JACKO.

RADLETT (HERTS).—Blushingly, as one of the youngest of the family, Radlett Group tenders its first report. Inspired by visits from Padre Birkmire and Grantibus, we are adding confidence to our earnestness, and already jobs are coming our way which promise to justify our existence. The regular visitation of some of the prisoners at Pentonville is the biggest job we have undertaken so far. Beyond receiving the two welcome visitors mentioned above, our fortnightly meetings have hardly yet determined their shape, but at one meeting we had a most interesting discussion, led by Happy, on the problem of the tramp—not the classic lover of the road, but the weary searcher for work, so hard to find and too often coldly welcomed when found.

UNCLE JOHN.

READING.—On Sunday, May 3, a Branch Corporate Communion was held at St. Saviour's Church, followed by a breakfast in the church hall. Nineteen members were present. Such gatherings add a zest to Toc H endeavours and it is hoped to make this an annual event. On May 12 the first Toc H social took place, and congratulations are due to our joint secretaries and the M.C. for the success of the evening. The branch now numbers 60. Our thanks are due to Mark V for hospitality to one invalid who returned to us a fit man.

J. DUNSTER.

SHEFFIELD.—Boys' clubs, after a successful season, are closing with a three days' camp at Whitsun, run by our members. Besides Rose Day we have taken on a flag-day for the Blind. A freewill-offering scheme has now been running nearly three months on behalf of House funds, and has produced fair results. We welcome Billy Williams back after a wretched illness: he must not do too much.

Meetings: At Mark VIII on Wednesdays at 8 p.m. June 3, on "Dr. Barnardo's Homes"; June 7 (Sunday), Reception and dedication of Unknown Soldiers' Cross in the House Chapel; June 17, Open Night; June 24, Preparations for Alexandra Rose Day; July 1, Lamp Memorial Night; July 4 (Saturday), Annual Garden Party.

MAC.

SHEFFIELD: WALKLEY.—A group has recently been formed at Walkley. Padre Garraway of Hull started us off, and we not only have ten members, but a fairy godmother, who provides us with a room in a cottage, with coffee, fire, &c., at the back of her house. We are feeling our way carefully and keep finding a new man interested in Toc H. At the moment we are supplying the patients of the Sheffield Royal Infirmary with reading matter, which our chaps go and change every Saturday. We have been doing this job just over two months and have distributed over 1,500 books and magazines in that time.

Meetings at the back of "The Hollies," Springvale.

J. D. W.

SHOREHAM AND LANCING.—On May 13 we attended the unveiling of the local War Memorial, on which Griggs placed a wreath from the Group. On Empire Day a few of us accompanied the Worthing Branch to Littlehampton where Barkis addressed a public meeting.
PIC.

SOUTH BANK.—We are moving, but not in the old Flanders style; we are going forward in short, sharp rushes, and consolidating as we go. One member continues to appear at Newcastle and Leeds tribunals, confounding those responsible for estimating the annual cost of pensions. Mr. Evans, the local Relieving Officer, who spoke at our guest night on May 6 on "Poor Law—past and present," referred to the work done by our pensions' advocate in reducing the rates. Giving advice in connection with National Health and Unemployment Benefit is a runner up with pensions' work. Mentally defectives have also come within the range of our flying squad. Tony, Lob and Kirton are tackling boy scouts and have won their tenderfoot badges. Our Jobmaster is going strong with his Martin Harvey stuff, and Squills flutters down to a boys' club and accompanies the Morris dances. Our tame dentist assists the police-court missionary, and should get a good grip on his job. On May 3 we assisted as stewards at a concert in aid of the doomed Scotswood miners. On May 24 we are accompanying the dignitaries of the local Council, at their invitation, to church. And believing that all work makes Jack a dull boy, we have formed a tennis club. We have some big things up our sleeves for the future—our arms.
DAVIES.

SOUTH SHIELDS.—With an unexpectedness none of us can yet fully realise, one of our youngest members, Claude Bethwaite, known and loved by us all as "Pat," was on Ascension Day called to join the Great Army of our Elder Brethren. He had recently joined the Society of the Divine Compassion at Stanford-le-Hope, Essex, with the object of preparing for ordination, and after many difficulties, his feet at last seemed to be firmly placed on the road to that high service. His calling from all he had hoped to other service was startlingly sudden, but just because it was the writer's privilege to know "Pat" well, he knows the suddenness of the call made little difference. The sunshine of Ascension Day drew a small party of lay brothers to an afternoon picnic and bathe. "Pat," going out, apparently, a little too far in the river, got caught up in a current and carried away before any assistance could be brought. His body, found two days later, (significantly, in an attitude of prayer, knees bent and hands folded crosswise) was subsequently brought to his home, and after a service at St. Mary's Church, Tyne Dock, was interred at Harton Cemetery on May 27. Every member of the branch who could get away from work, was present at the funeral, four of them acted as bearers, and it was the writer's privilege to say the last sad words of the Committal Prayer—yet "in sure and certain hope of the Resurrection"—over one who was so really a Toc H brother. "Pat" was one of those cheery souls who ever faced up to life with a smile and a joke, and one in whom the love and idealism of Jesus Christ found faithful expression because of his own sure conviction of the truth and reality of the faith he professed. His last and splendid job of service before he left for the South will not soon be forgotten by those who knew the worth of it, because it was a sowing of the seed which shall one day bring forth abundantly in this great seaport. Our promise of recollection—"We will remember them," when we now light our Lamp, will take on a richer significance through the knowledge and inspiration of yet another called to join our Elder Brethren, and chosen so suddenly from our own midst.
G. W. E.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS.—The month has been nearly full of good things, and the only regret we have to report is that Paskin, our Jobmaster, continues to suffer failing health. He has not been with us for some months, and he is much missed by the branch. In electing an assistant Jobmaster to fill the temporary vacancy, H. T. Berwick, our chairman, said there

was no need to look for jobs, as more than we could easily handle were coming in. In other words, we are busy. A happy party of 17 supported the "Tic Tocs" at Withyham, when they gave a successful and much appreciated concert for Eric Coles boys' camp, and 20 of us hired a special bus to Crowborough for the public meeting in connection with the new group there. At our last branch meeting George Wales opened a discussion on "Housing." He proved an expert on the subject, and the conflagration was so interesting that we adjourned it, and arranged a supper, at which the L.W.H. rolled up in large numbers, specially to complete the debate. The result was the sending of a polite but firm resolution to the Town Council, calling upon them to pick up their hods. We were asked at very short notice to run a flag day for the Police Court Mission, and handed it over to the L.W.H., with excellent results. Among many other jobs we decided to run a flag day for St. Dunstan's on July 25, and to try and find scout-masters for several local troops.

NOBBY.

WORTHING.—On Sunday, May 24, we descended in force upon Littlehampton, and sowed the seed of what has every indication of becoming a flourishing group. Padre Bond preached at Evensong in the Parish Church, and after the service, we adjourned to a neighbouring hall, where Barkis and Kerswell addressed a successful meeting, the chair being taken by Sir Arthur Allen-Williams, chairman of the Littlehampton Urban District Council. In making our departure we introduced the rousing strains of Rogerum in Littlehampton for the first time, much to the dismay of the few belated pedestrians who saw our going.

M. A. P.

YORK.—This old city has now begun to move, the invasion of Toc H opening with a successful attack at Feasegate Restaurant on April 16, where some 20 odd prisoners were taken. They were very cheerful, however, and are knuckling down to the tasks provided. Group meetings are held on Thursdays at St. William's College, near the famous Minster, where on Thursday, May 28, we held our dedication service in one of the chapels at which the Dean (Dr. Foxley Norris) gave us a welcome. We have discussed briefly "India," "Northern Nigeria" and "Palestine and Transjordan" (papers respectively by Col. E. G. Maud, Col. Sullivan and Capt. Deane) and had a successful debate on "Human Nature," at which Sir Charles Harrington set the ball rolling. We hope to get going strongly on "Citizenship," "Education," &c., very shortly. Our club room, situated in the above College, will be open nightly from June 4, and a welcome awaits any member straying from his own fold. We are getting busy with the hospital and the military prison, and also with a Boy Scout troupe at Bishopthorpe.

W. B.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN HELPERS

GATESHEAD.—We are making our bow as a group, at the age of three months. We have made one long-standing effort in a combined choral society with the local Toc H, and many of us are old in Toc H ideas and work. Besides assisting this branch, however, we have launched out on two large local efforts on our own. We are looking forward to a visit from Miss Macfie in the near future. There is much work in the offing.

T. & M.

LONDON, E.C.—A club for boys and girls of St. Paul's Church School, Dock Street, E.1, was started by members of the E.C. Group on April 22. The idea of the club originated from L.C.C. Care-Committee work which one of the New Juniors has been carrying on since November, and there was therefore no difficulty in collecting 40 children from a rather isolated part of White-chapel for the "send off." The boys and girls attend on separate evenings, but are really working side by side; in many instances brothers and sisters come on their respective days. The clubs are divided into four groups of five, each group being known as a "ring," under a "ring-leader." The girls have made armlets for the boys and sashes for themselves in colours

chosen by the respective "rings," and the "rings" compete against each other for a quarterly "treat." The club evening is divided into three sections—7.30-8.15, crafts; 8.15-9, musical drill and team games; 9-9.30, sing-song. The Crafts section covers a variety of things, from rug-making to creating works of art out of jam jars and enamel paint. Once a month the club is to hold a "jollification night," when visitors are to be invited. At the girls' evening on May 13, Miss Macfie gave an interesting talk on bandaging, followed by practical work, and on the boys' evening the Skipper brought the Lord Mayor's Own (the All Hallows' Scout troop), and after a riotously happy evening the roof was observed to be sagging in several places. The policy is to go slowly but surely, and it is hoped by degrees to enter on a wide range of activities. At present it is thought advisable to limit the membership to 20 boys and 20 girls, so that a really enthusiastic team can be formed which, in time, will welcome newcomers. To combine motto with name, the club has called itself the A.B.C. (Always Be Cheerful) Club, and from the preliminary collection of pennies to the simple ending prayers maintains this slogan pretty well. The Tower Hill Group of Toc H has offered to produce a boxing instructor and to teach the boys swimming, but both funds and tackle are conspicuous by their absence, and offers for the girls of cast-off gym or tennis shoes, and for the boys of these and of boxing gloves, will be much appreciated. The club is run by two very keen helpers, with the Secretary (Miss Leonard, New June, 50, Great Tower Street, E.C.3), who would be glad to show the club at work to anyone who cares to write. On Tuesday evening an executive meeting is held at New June, when "ring-leaders" attend and the programme for the week is discussed. LEN.

MANCHESTER.—The women's group here is shaken by the news that we are losing our Honorary Secretary, Mrs. Wally Watford. For over a year she has served and led, and now we begin to realise how much we owe to her example, and how much we shall miss the delight of her companionship. She leaves us for Farnborough, and if we do not shortly hear of the rising of an L.W.H. tributary there we shall be surprised. She has our gratitude and affection, and we must try to show it by carving away undaunted with our little Manchester blade at the scarcely-revealed statue of the work as it shall be. K. G.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS.—The branch is only three months old, but some good work has been accomplished in many directions. The latest venture was a flag day for the Police Court Mission, arranged at short notice, on May 23, when about £90 was collected. Our president, Mrs. Bacon, addressed a meeting at Crowborough, through which many young women applied for membership. When they have proved their worth they will form the nucleus of a group of L.W.H. in Crowborough in connection with the newly-formed Crowborough Beacon Group of Toc H.

WINNIPEG.—You will be interested to know that the ladies of Winnipeg attached to Toc H have formed a League of Women Helpers. At our first meeting in January of this year we had twenty present, now our numbers reach twenty-seven; each one seems anxious to do all they can, and have taken up different work, and every week two or three are doing the house mending and also the boy's mending. I think as time goes on different opportunities will present themselves. Last month the ladies entertained the boys to card-party and dance, and also served some wonderful refreshments, which I think appealed to them most of all. We have some good times together, and when Padre Cavley is in the House at the time of our meeting, we generally close by all going down to the chapel for Prayers. Are we the first Canadian League? I hope we are. NELLIE DARRACOTT.

[NOTE.—The nucleus of this new group was formed from the survivors of the "Carnival worry" last autumn, when prospective members were put to the test. Tubby writes: "The L.W.H. in Winnipeg is really splendid."—ED.]